

Jim's Lessons Week 2 #6 Tapping Declarer

Board 3

♠ A K Q
 South Deals ♥ A 10 6 5
 E-W Vul ♦ A Q 9 8
 ♣ 10 3

♠ J 2 ♥ 9 8 4 2 ♦ 10 ♣ K J 9 8 7 5		♠ 8 7 5 4 3 ♥ — ♦ K 6 5 4 ♣ A 6 4 2	♠ 10 9 6 ♥ K Q J 7 3 ♦ J 7 3 2 ♣ Q
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NS 4♥; N 4♦; S 3♦; EW 3♣; NS 1N;
 N 1♠; Par +420

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	Pass
4 ♥ by South			

Contract	By Lead Made	Scores	Pairs	
			N-S	E-W
4 ♥	N ♠ 8	5 450		1 vs 1
4 ♥	S ♦ 10	5 450		4 vs 7
4 ♥	S ♦ 10	5 450		6 vs 4
4 ♥	S ♦ 10	5 450		7 vs 6
4 ♥	S ♣ 9	4 420		3 vs 5
2 ♥	N ♠ 8	4 170		5 vs 2
3 ♣×	W ♠ A	3	670	2 vs 3

Source: Puritan Bridge Club Game of May 5, 2017

Do you know why 4 pairs in 4 ♥ made 11 tricks and one pair in 4 ♥ made only 10 tricks. It was not because of an error by the declarer.

If you notice everyone who made 11 tricks got a diamond lead. There is a possible lesson here.

Defenders Tip: When you (the defenders) have extra trump cards (usually 4) it may pay to force declarer to have to trump the defenders suit. If you are extremely short in the declarer's trump suit your partner may have extra trump. On this hand tapping the declarer gets the defenders an extra trick.

On the bidding West did not know if South had 4 or 5 hearts. Of course West did know he possessed 4 hearts himself. By forcing declarer to ruff a club declarer could only pull 3 rounds of trump before giving up the lead in diamonds.

The declarer had to keep the ability to ruff a 3rd lead of clubs. This allowed the defenders to get 3 tricks. 1 club, 1 diamond (king) and a diamond ruff and hold the declarer to only 10 tricks. Sometimes this type of defense actually earns the defenders more than one extra trick (declarer loses control of the hand completely).